

**Vernon Robinson  
South Ward Alderman  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

**Fax Cover Sheet**

**To: Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice**

**Microsoft Case Comment for Federal Register**

**Vernon Robinson**  
**South Ward Alderman**  
**Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Divisions  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

As an elected official who represents taxpayers, I am pleased that Judge Kollar Kotelly has before her a settlement agreement, which has been reached between Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Justice. I hope that this agreement will be signed off on soon.

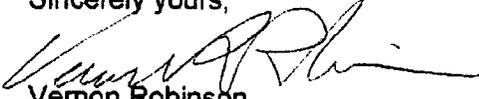
As one who has urged fiscal restraint in all matters and less government involvement in people's lives and businesses where possible, I have been displeased with what I believe to have been the unwarranted pursuit of Microsoft, not to mention the \$30 million in taxpayers money used to prosecute this case which was so quickly overturned by the Court of Appeals.

However, since the U.S. Department of Justice and Microsoft plus several attorneys general have sought to end this sad affair, I would certainly endorse this settlement rather than pushing on year after year and devouring even more taxpayer dollars. I know that in any settlement, both sides will get what they think are victories but not get everything they want. That is also true of compromises which come up at the city level upon which I must vote each month.

As an alderman, there is one thing I have learned about endless litigation. It is not good for anyone. When our city is sued, it takes time and resources that should definitely be spent on other matters. It often means hiring of outside counsel which is expensive. Eventually, if the city is plagued with too many lawsuits, it begins to affect our budget and brings about increased need for higher taxes.

I encourage approval of settlement in this case for the sake of the taxpayers.

Sincerely yours,

  
Vernon Robinson  
South Ward Alderman

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